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Issue: 09-38

September 25th, 2009

- Retail sales slip 0.8% in July
- Lumber production remains in a slump
- BC's fertility rate inches up in 2007, but remains among the lowest in Canada

The Economy

- Sales by retailers in the province continued to seesaw in July, slipping 0.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) to \$4.4 billion. Across the country, retail sales declined in all provinces, most markedly in Saskatchewan (-1.9%) and Nova Scotia (-1.5%).

Nationally, retailers saw sales drop (-0.6%) as increased sales at pharmacies (+1.1%), building & outdoor home supplies (+1.0%) and general merchandise (+0.6%) stores were offset by weakness in other major industry groups, including the automotive sector (-1.0%) and food & beverage stores (-1.5%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- Sawmills and planing mills in BC produced substantially less lumber this July (-18.0%) than in the same month last year. Production at Coastal mills was relatively unchanged (-0.1%) but those in the Interior (-19.8%) slowed their output substantially. Canadian lumber production slipped 24.0%, largely due to significant downturns in BC and Quebec (-30.9%), Canada's second-biggest lumber producing province. Year-to-date, BC sawmills continued to account for over half of the nation's lumber production.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Births & Fertility

- There were 43,649 births in British Columbia in 2007, up 4.6% from the number recorded in 2006. Nationally, births registered totalled 367,864, an increase of 3.7% over the previous year.

The climb in the number of births mostly reflects rising fertility among women in their

thirties. BC mothers aged 30 to 34 accounted for 31.7% of all births in 2006, while teenage fertility (mothers aged 19 and younger) continued to decline. The average age of women that gave birth in 2007 remained at 29.9 years, slightly higher than the national average of 29.3 years. Mothers in Ontario were the oldest in the nation, with an average age of 30.0 years. In 2007, the fertility rate of Canadian women aged 30 to 34 surpassed that of women aged 25 to 29 for the second straight year.

Data Source: S.C. Cat. #84F0210-XIE

- BC's total fertility rate (i.e., the average number of children that women aged 15 to 49 will have in their lifetime) inched up to 1.52 in 2007, but remained among the lowest in the country. Newfoundland & Labrador (1.46), Nova Scotia (1.48), New Brunswick (1.52) and Ontario (1.57) all recorded fertility rates lower than the national average of 1.66 per woman. On the other hand, Saskatchewan (2.03) had the highest total fertility rate. The provincial rates were largely unchanged from those recorded in 2006. Among the territories, the total fertility rate was highest in Nunavut (2.97 births per woman).

At 10.2, the province's crude birth rate (the number of live births per 1,000 people) in 2007 was the fifth lowest in the country and well below the national average of 11.2. Alberta (14.0 births per 1,000 population) had the highest crude birth rate among the provinces.

Data Source: S.C. Cat. #84F0210-XIE

- The proportion of births occurring among Canadian women aged 30 and older has increased significantly over the past 10 years.

Did you know...

In the United States, the furthest distance between two McDonald's restaurants is 107 miles.

Fertility rates for Canadian women aged 30 and over have climbed over the past 10 years, while rates for younger women have fallen. Women over the age of 29 were the main contributors to the increase in births in 2007, responsible for over half (56%) of the overall jump. In 2007, there were 115,415 babies born to women aged 30 to 34, the highest number of all age groups and up 3.7% from 2006. In 1997, fertility rates were highest among women aged 25 to 29, but in 2006, the highest fertility rate shifted from that age group to women aged 30 to 34. By 2007, the gap between the two age groups had widened further, with fertility rates of women aged 30 to 34 surpassing that for those aged 25 to 29 for the second straight year.

The recent increase in births could also partially be explained by the fact that many women from the echo generation have entered their childbearing years. After peaking in 1990, the number of births fell steadily throughout the 1990s, such that in 2000, just 328,000 births were registered nation-wide. This was the lowest number since the end of the Second World War. Conversely, the 2000s have marked a very different era, with births increasing in every year except 2002. The number of births jumped 3.6% in 2006 and a further 3.7% in 2007.

Data Source: S.C. Cat. #84F0210-XIE

Travel

- **In the peak summer month of August, Vancouver International Airport was the second-busiest airport in the country, after Toronto's Pearson Airport.** Last month, 30,336 aircraft took off or landed in Vancouver, compared to 36,215 in Toronto. The third-busiest airport was Calgary International, with 20,132 aircraft arrivals and departures. The 41 largest Canadian airports (with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers) reported 432,036 aircraft take-offs and landings in August, down a substantial 6.0% (nearly 28,000 fewer flights) from August of last year.

Data Source: Transport Canada

- **As fuel prices continue to fluctuate, Canadians are taking fewer trips on urban transit systems.** In July, combined ridership on the country's ten largest urban transit systems (accounting for 80% of total urban transit in Canada) was lower (-2.6%) than in the same month last year. Approximately 108 million passenger trips were taken on these systems, generating \$197 million in revenue, a notable decrease (-2.5%) over July 2008.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **Canadians divested \$526 million worth of foreign securities in July, mostly due to disposition of foreign bonds and money market paper.** Canadian demand for foreign equities slowed with investors adding a moderate \$824 million of foreign shares in July, compared with a \$3.8 billion acquisition the month before.

Meanwhile, non-residents shed themselves of Canadian money market instruments totalling \$3.8 billion. However, the decrease in holdings was offset by the acquisition of nearly \$3.6 billion in foreign holdings of Canadian bonds and a \$612 million investment of Canadian stocks.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **In 2008, the value of Canada's timber, energy, and mineral resource assets soared (+45.3%) to reach over \$1.7 trillion.** This amounted to more than 22% of the nation's total wealth including natural resources. Individual resource assets showed mixed growth, with the value of timber declining (-3.9%), minerals making solid gains (+22.2%), and energy surging by nearly three quarters (+72.5%) as a result of record high prices for crude oil, crude bitumen, and natural gas during much of the year. The value of overall natural resource assets was up in 2008, despite price declines in the latter part of the year.

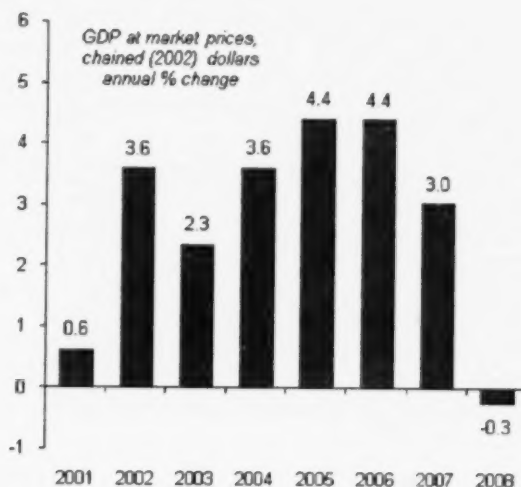
Data Source: Statistics Canada

*Infoline Issue: 09-38
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Labour Market Reacts to Slowing Economy

Unemployment Rate Rises as Economic Conditions Change

British Columbia's economy shrank slightly in 2008, marking the first annual decline in the province's gross domestic product (GDP) since 1982¹.



Economy Shrinks Slightly in 2008

Source: Statistics Canada

Before B.C.'s economy began contracting in the latter part of 2008, B.C.'s unemployment rate was remarkably low, hovering between 4.0 and 4.5 percent during all of 2007 and early 2008².

However, in September 2008, B.C.'s labour market began feeling the effects of the slowing economy, and the unemployment rate began edging upward. As of June 2009, B.C.'s unemployment rate was 8.1 percent. Even though

B.C.'s unemployment rate has practically doubled over the past several months, by historical standards, the unemployment rate is modest and is still below the national average of 8.6 percent.



B.C.'s Unemployment Rate Rises, but Is Still Below Long-Run Average

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Job Losses Affect Both Goods and Services Sectors

Between August 2008 and June 2009, employment in British Columbia decreased by 68,000, with the majority of job losses concentrated in the goods-producing sector.

In the goods-producing sector, construction and manufacturing experienced the largest employment declines. Although accounting for a smaller number of job losses, employment in utilities (-14%) and forestry fishing, mining, oil and gas (-11%) has also declined rapidly.

¹ Figures are based on chained 2002 dollars. Data for 2008 is preliminary and will be revised in the fall when more information is available.

² Unless otherwise noted, all data presented in this article are seasonally adjusted.

Employment Declines in Most B.C. Industries

Industry	Aug 08-
Goods-producing sector	-58,000
Agriculture	2,700
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil & gas	-4,500
Utilities	-2,200
Construction	-29,700
Manufacturing	-24,200
Services-producing sector	-10,000
Trade	8,700
Transportation & warehousing	-21,200
Finance, insurance, real estate & leasing	-7,800
Professional, scientific & technical services	-1,400
Business, building & other support services	-7,300
Educational services	0
Health care & social assistance	14,700
Information, culture & recreation	7,600
Accommodation & food services	-3,400
Other services	-2,400
Public administration	2,400

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Although the majority of job losses over the past ten months have been concentrated in the goods sector, the services sector in B.C. has also experienced a decline in employment. Within the services-producing sector, transportation and warehousing has been hardest hit, but finance, real estate and leasing and business, building and other support services also had significant job losses.

Despite the economic slowdown, some service industries are still growing. For example, health care and social assistance and information, culture and recreation have both grown by 6% since August 2008. Gains in the trade industry (2%) have also helped offset losses in other industries.

Comparison: Alberta's Service Sector Still Thriving Despite Global Conditions

Alberta's labour market is also being affected by the slowing global economy; the unemployment rate in Alberta has risen from 3.5 per cent in August 2008 to 6.8 percent in June 2009.

Like B.C., Alberta has incurred substantial job losses in construction and manufacturing over the past 10 months. However, unlike B.C., Alberta's service sector is still growing. With the exception of trade (-7%) and professional, scientific and technical services (-10%), every other service industry in Alberta has grown since August 2008. The ability of Alberta's service sector to absorb job losses in other industries may be a product of that sector's resiliency, or simply an easing of the incredibly tight labour market conditions Alberta faced at the time the global economy started slowing.

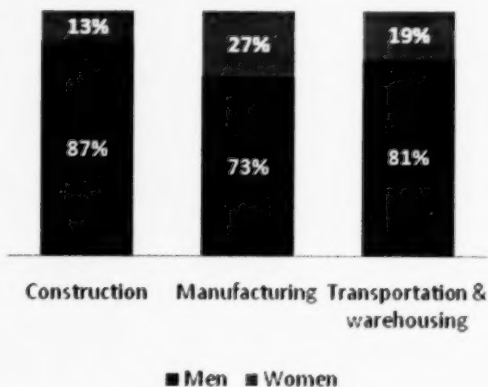
Service Sector Employment Grows in Alberta

Industry	Aug 08-
Goods-producing sector	-58,700
Agriculture	-6,500
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil & gas	-4,000
Utilities	2,400
Construction	-22,300
Manufacturing	-28,100
Services-producing sector	41,200
Trade	-23,600
Transportation & warehousing	8,300
Finance, insurance, real estate & leasing	7,000
Professional, scientific & technical services	-16,200
Business, building & other support services	6,500
Educational services	10,500
Health care & social assistance	8,000
Information, culture & recreation	9,900
Accommodation & food services	14,900
Other services	5,600
Public administration	10,400

As Majority of Job Losses Absorbed by Men, Young Men Crowded out of Labour Market

Of the 68,000 jobs lost between August 2008 and June 2009, 96 percent were lost by men. This is primarily because men are overrepresented in the industries that have been facing the greatest challenges. At the time just before B.C.'s unemployment rate began climbing, approximately 4 out of every 5 jobs in B.C.'s construction, manufacturing, and transportation and warehousing industries were held by men³.

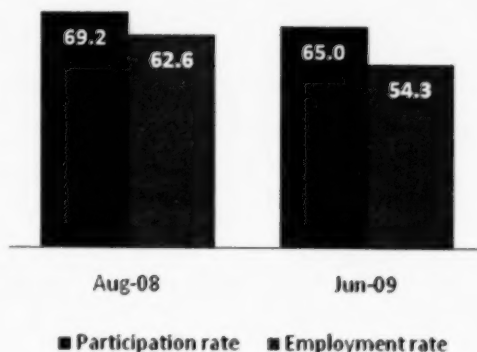
In August 2008, Men Held almost all of B.C.'s Construction Jobs



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Declines in employment have affected young men (aged 15-24) disproportionately more than men aged 25+. While employment among men aged 25+ declined by 4 percent between August 2008 and June 2009, employment among young men declined by 13 percent.

Employment and Labour Force Participation Rates among Young Men (15-24) Have Fallen



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In response to deteriorating employment opportunities, young men are exiting the labour market. This crowding out is referred to as the discouraged worker effect. The participation rate of male youth has fallen by 4.2 percentage points, from 69.2 in August 2008, to 65.0 in June 2009.

Older Women (Age 55-64) More Attached to Labour Force

Overall, employment among women has declined slightly (-2,400 jobs). However, taking a closer look at employment by age group reveals that the losses among women aged 15-25 (-6,900) and women aged 25-54 (-14,000) are more substantial. Together, these figures suggest that employment has actually been increasing among older women.

³ Industry data for August 2008 is unadjusted.

Employment has Increased among Older Women



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (*55-64 is derived)

Although Statistics Canada does not provide seasonally adjusted data for the 55-64 and 65+ age groups, data from other age groups suggests that for women aged 55-64, employment actually increased by approximately 23,700 jobs between August 2008 and June 2009⁴.

All of these employment gains were attributable to an increase in the size of the labour force: the female labour force age 55-64 also grew by 23,700 during this period. Only part of this labour force growth can be explained by population growth (as the baby boom cohort ages); the remainder of the growth is due to increased labour force participation.

There are a couple of reasons why the slowing economy might be causing increased labour force participation among older women. First, women may be entering the labour force or delaying retirement when their partners become unemployed. Second, the recent declines and overall volatility of stock market prices may also be impacting older women's labour force participation decisions.

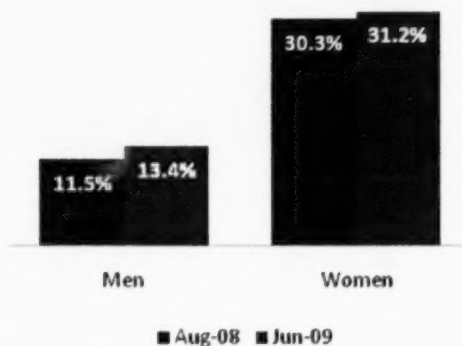
⁴ Figures are derived using seasonally adjusted data for age groups 15-64, 15-24, and 25-54.

Involuntary Part Time Work Rises

Although total employment has fallen in recent months, part-time employment has been rising⁵. Sometimes it can be more beneficial for employers to cut hours instead of laying off workers, because then if business conditions improve, they do not have to incur the expense of hiring and training new employees. Furthermore, employers may be reluctant to offer full-time positions in times of economic uncertainty.

Since August 2008, the incidence of part-time employment has risen among both men and women in B.C., although the rise has been slightly more pronounced for men.

Proportion of Part-time Employment Rises among Men and Women



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

When workers who want to work full-time can only get part-time work, this is referred to as *underemployment*. The Labour Force Survey asks part-time workers to provide the reason they are working part-time, whether it be voluntary (e.g. due to personal preference, family responsibilities, attending school, etc.) or involuntary (i.e. due to business conditions or could not find full-time work). In June 2008, 20 percent of all part-time

⁵ Part-time employment is defined as persons usually working less than 30 hours per week at their main or only job.

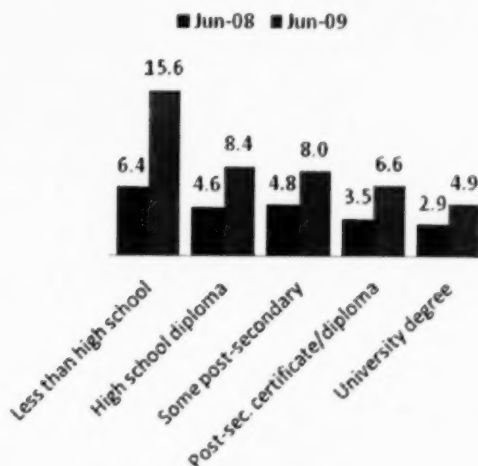
employment in B.C. was involuntary, but by June 2009, this figure had jumped to 31 percent⁶.

Higher Educational Attainment does not Fully Protect against Rising Unemployment

The slowing economy has negatively impacted labour market outcomes for all British Columbians, regardless of educational attainment. Comparing data from June 2009 to June 2008 reveals that employment rates have declined and unemployment rates have risen in every educational group⁷.

Although all educational groups have been affected by the slowing economy, some groups have been affected more than others. Not surprisingly, the unemployment rate has risen the most for those with less than a high school education. Even if youth (aged 15-24) are excluded from the analysis, the results are similar.

A High School Diploma Helps Protect Against Rising Unemployment Rate (Age 15+)



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

⁶ Comparison is made to the same time period in prior year because data are not seasonally adjusted.

⁷ See note 5.

Even though British Columbians from all educational levels are facing more difficult labour market conditions, overall employment has risen among those with some post-secondary education (but no credential), and among university graduates. However, because employment growth within these groups has failed to keep pace with population growth, these groups are still facing falling employment rates and rising unemployment rates.

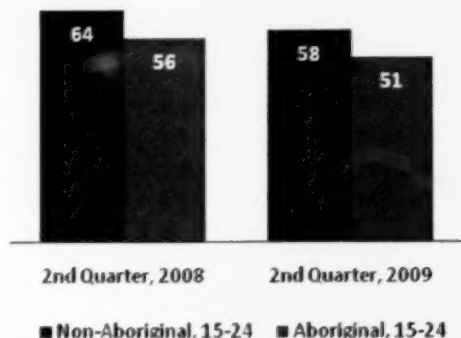
Aboriginal Population Struggles with Declining Employment

The employment rate among B.C.'s off-reserve Aboriginal population dropped significantly between the second quarter of 2008 and the second quarter of 2009 (from 63 percent to 56 percent)⁸. However, this may be partly attributed to the fact that B.C.'s Aboriginal population is younger, on average, than B.C.'s non-Aboriginal population. For example, in 2008, 24 percent of the Aboriginal population in B.C. was between the ages of 15 and 24, compared to just 16 percent of the non-Aboriginal population.

Before the economic slowdown began, there was an employment rate gap between B.C.'s Aboriginal youth (15-24) and non-Aboriginal youth. Although the economic slowdown has adversely affected both groups, the employment rate gap between Aboriginal youth and non-Aboriginal youth has not widened.

⁸ Comparison is made (using 3 month-moving average data) to the same time period in prior year because data are not seasonally adjusted.

The Employment Rate Gap between Aboriginal

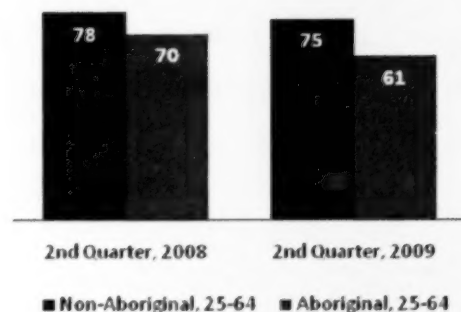


and Non-Aboriginal Youth has Remained Stable

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Among the adult working age population (25-64), the economic slowdown has caused the employment rate gap between B.C.'s Aboriginal population and non-Aboriginal population to increase.

The Employment Rate Gap between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Adults (25-64) has Increased



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

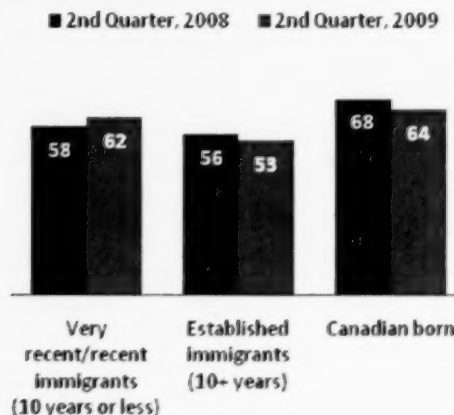
One factor that may help explain the widening of this employment gap is differences in educational attainment. For example, in 2008, only 8 percent of the Aboriginal population aged 25-64 had a university degree, compared with 27 percent of the non-Aboriginal population. However, small sample sizes make it difficult to control for educational attainment or measure the size of its possible impact.

Education Helps Protect Immigrants from Economic Downturn

Following the overall trend, B.C.'s immigrant population experienced an increase in their overall unemployment rate between the second quarter of 2008 and the second quarter of 2009 (from 4.8 percent to 8.0 percent)⁹. However, unlike other demographic groups, some B.C. immigrants have actually experienced an increase in their employment rate in the past year.

Despite the influx of additional immigrants, substantial employment increases caused the employment rate of very recent and recent immigrants (less than 10 years) to increase from 58 percent in the second quarter of 2008 to 62 percent in the second quarter of 2009. Established immigrants (10 years or more), however, found their employment rate dropping along with their Canadian-born counterparts.

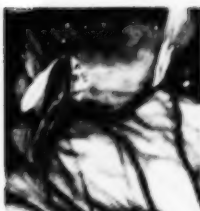
Employment Rate Rises among B.C.'s Very Recent and Recent Immigrants



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

⁹ See note 7.

The most likely reason that B.C.'s very recent and recent immigrants have fared so well is because they are, in general, highly educated. For example, in 2008, 51 percent of the very recent/recent immigrants aged 25-54 in B.C. had a university degree, compared with just 21 percent of their Canadian-born counterparts. Furthermore, within this age group, 20 percent of very recent/recent immigrants had a university degree above the baccalaureate level. Although the established immigrant population also has higher education levels than the Canadian born population, the differences are not as pronounced.



*The Visionary, by Chris Aquari,
Cold Lake First Nation, Alberta.*

Aboriginal Strategies Conference 2009

November 3 to 5, 2009

The Westin Hotel

Edmonton, AB

Aboriginal community leaders and developers, local policy makers, decision-makers and practitioners, will gather in Edmonton between Nov. 3 and Nov. 5 to share how data can be used to build vibrant, sustainable communities.

Presented by Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Strategies 2009 is a solutions-based three-day conference which will showcase successes through the sharing of knowledge, experiences, best practices and challenges in five different thematic areas: children and families; economic development and labour market; the North; health and well-being; and urban Aboriginal population.

The diverse range of topics will reflect the complexity of Aboriginal communities in the western provinces and northern territories, and will serve to provide a better understanding of life for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

The conference will feature five keynote speakers, including; the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Aboriginal Relations, Government of Alberta; and Ms. Pamela McCurry, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Strategic Direction, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

In addition, the conference will also feature more than 40 presenters, including; Ms. Emma Palmantier, Chairperson, Northern BC Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Task Force; Mr. Geoff Bowlby, Director, Labour Statistics Division, Statistics Canada; and Jeannie Cranmer, Aboriginal Education and Employment Coordinator, BC Hydro.

For more information or to register, visit www.statcan.gc.ca and select 'Workshops and conferences', e-mail infostrategies@statcan.gc.ca or call 1-888-799-0050.

Aboriginal Strategies 2009



Nov. 3, 2009 to Nov. 5, 2009

The Westin Hotel, Edmonton, AB

Share Knowledge

Empower People

Shape the Future

Registration form

Conference Fees

Early Bird Rate: \$600.00
 + 5% GST = \$630.00
*For registrations received on or before Oct. 13
 2009 (extended deadline).*

Regular Rate: \$650.00
 + 5% GST = \$682.50

*Group rates are available. For more information,
 call 1-888-799-0050 or 780-495-8378.*

Registration includes one ticket to the Evening Gala
 with entertainment and keynote speaker on
 Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009. Additional banquet
 tickets are available for an extra \$50 each, plus 5%
 GST (\$52.50).

- ☐ Yes, I will attend the banquet.
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Book rooms under "Statistics Canada" and receive
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** Cancellation Policy: Cancellations received in writing, prior to Oct. 16, 2009 will receive a full refund less a \$75 administration fee. After that date no refunds will be made, but substitutions will be permitted.*

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		% change on
	Apr 1/2009	one year ago
BC	4,435.3	1.7
Canada	33,592.7	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Apr 27)		% change on
	2008	one year ago
(BC - at market prices)		
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	199,214	3.5
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)	164,161	-0.3
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)	37,466	-1.9
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)	26,110	3.3
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on
		prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jul	2,642	-0.8
Merchandise Exports - Jul	2,132	10.8
Retail Sales - Jul	4,413	-0.8
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on
	one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Aug 2009)		
BC	-1.1	0.8
Vancouver	-0.8	1.0
Victoria	-0.8	0.9
Canada	-0.8	0.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
	Aug '09	prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)		
Labour Force - BC	2,447	0.5
Employed - BC	2,256	0.4
Unemployed - BC	191	1.3
		Jul '09
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	7.8	7.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	8.7	8.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)		
	Sep 23/2009	Sep 24/2008
Prime Business Rate	2.25	4.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.70	6.65
- 5 year	5.49	6.85
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		
	Sep 23/2009	Sep 24/2008
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$	1.0724	1.0351
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$	0.9301	0.9646
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
	Aug '09	one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)		
BC	806.56	3.7
Canada	808.08	2.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Population & Household Projections

The latest British Columbia population projections (PEOPLE 34) are now available. BC Stats produces population and household projections for British Columbia and for a number of sub-provincial geographies in the province, including: Development Regions, Regional Districts, Health Authorities, Health Service Delivery Areas, Local Health Areas, College Regions, School Districts, and six Special Regions.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/popproj.asp

British Columbia Wellness Atlas 2008

The dynamic and highly configurable atlas allows users greater flexibility to explore the regional variations and correlations of the wellness data. In total, 40 indicators are drawn from the CCHS (Canadian Community Health Survey) and 27 indicators are from the 2006 Census of Canada and 2008 Socio-Demographic variables from BC Stats. The Wellness Atlas presents information in a geographical context (Health Service Delivery Areas), revealing spatial variations and patterns across British Columbia. To display your own unique dataset, contact [Pat Blumel](mailto:Pat.Blumel@bcstats.gov.bc.ca) to discuss.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/georef/geopage.asp

Regional Employment Projections

British Columbia's economy depends upon a skilled workforce for economic growth and well-being. Recent demographic forecasts have emphasized the need to increase the workforce in a variety of occupations. In response, BC Stats has developed a projection of the possible demand for labour by region, industry and occupation for 2008 to 2013.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/repm.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- No subscription releases

Next week

- Business Indicators, September 2009
- Current Statistics, September 2009
- Tourism Sector Monitor, September 2009